UNESCO SOURCES

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES: A GLOBAL CONTRACT

N° 56 - MARCH 1994

EDUCATION AS ENCULTURATION

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I am happy to get UNESCO Sources regularly. Reading your worldwide articles keeps me up on the facts of current news.

Regarding your excellent article "Tradition and Modernization" by Zhou Nanzhao (China) in Sources No. 52 (November 1993), I would like to make a few comments on education and "enculturation". This article throws new light on the present system of education, expressing opinions which should be included in encyclopedias.

Indeed, we should not regard tradition as handing down or following the ways of the ancients blindly. It cannot simply be inherited. It can only be obtained with great labour. It involves a historical sense and enables one to perceive not only the pastness of the past but also its presentness. Our present education system makes no place for present and future. It is really groping in the neon light of the modern age. The dead past is the most potent factor of the so-called living present. Ethical values seem to be vanishing like extinct dinosaurs.

The present system of education aims at achieving material progress, but contrary to the ethical, moral and spiritual values of life. This system regards tradition, heritage and religion as of no importance.

Liberal eduction should develop the faculty of thinking. Today, students seem to be drifting without moorings. The new generation is trained to hate old values. The age demands that we evaluate age-old moral and spiritual values on a scientific basis. We should not reject the phenomenal values which are part of our spiritual heritage.

It is essential to think ahead and provide new generations with suitable alternatives to lead a well-balanced life with adequate moral, ethical and spiritual values which assure a better tomorrow. Education should aim at transmitting cultural values which are, after all, the prerogative of humankind.

LANGUAGE AND REALITY

Alexandra Draxler
Secretary, International Commission on Education for the 21st Century
UNESCO

If anyone needed to know whether or not the issue of non-sexist language is important, it would only be necessary to read the defensive reactions of defenders of the *status quo* (Sources No. 54) or those who feel that enough has been done already. The examples of difficult-to-exchange expressions given by the English editor are particularly easy to solve (and are in fact no longer in broad use): for brotherly love, read comradeship, friendship, fellowship, and so on, for average man read average person, and for forefathers, read forebears.

Those who still feel that changing sexist language is not important, should try the analogy with racist language, and recall the changes in attitudes that went along with the abandonment of racial epithets and slurs: language reflects our perceived realities, and as long as there are people who speak of *"the average man"*, there will be a corresponding number of people who forget that to be in contact with the average man means ignoring more than half of the world's population.

What the English editor meant was not that the expressions in question were "difficult to change". On the contrary, and as you point out, it is quite easy to find non-sexist language which is not only far less ambiguous but generally more contemporary. What the editor meant by "problems" referred exclusively to stubbornly continuing usage. Progress has indeed been made, yet we still have a large and sadly growing collection of examples, many from UNESCO documents, and even though UNESCO's GUIDELINES ON NON-SEXIST LANGUAGE go far in providing "how to" hints. If the GUIDELINES do not convince recalcitrant "men in the street" and even the "average man" when she's a woman, the expression "Man is a mammal who breastfeeds his young" is always worth a try. - Ed.

CREATIVE CAPACITY AND SOLIDARITY

Cristobal Perez-Ierez
Professor
San José (Costa Rica)

Each issue of your magazine is a source of inexhaustible information on the creative capacity of humanity, demonstrating the progress realized in the fields of education, science and culture. This creative capacity of men and women has its negative side with the intensification of exploitation and intolerance which are also part of culture.

Let us hope that the efforts of the international intellectual community in favour of peace, of economic relations which benefit all, and of religious, ideological, political and racial tolerance succeed in building a world of solidarity and well-being for all.

READEX FICHE

INSIGHT

THE MISSING LINK

Mounting intolerances, deepening inequalities, increasing exclusion, irreversible damage to the environment and pandemics: the symptoms are clear but we are in a quandrary as to how to treat them. Today, though, we at least know what is happening and are even able to quantify the future impact of our present disorders. This is both a source of fear, because it reveals the gravity of the situation, and stimulation for those willing to attack the problems.

However denouncing the dangerous path upon which we find ourselves and wanting to change direction in the name of what are now accepted as universal values is not sufficient. We need to work out how to do it. And it's this missing link that all of UNESCO's partners should concentrate on as they prepare the Organization's Fourth Medium Term Plan for the period covering 1996 to the Year 2000.

The obstacles are considerable. Firstly, the equation of contemporary problems increases daily in complexity - as quickly as the factors that make it up. The second major difficulty lies in the destabilization of the traditional institutions that regulate society and to which we have recourse - beginning with the State. De facto, they exercise a sort of co-sovereignty shared, among others, with local authorities and that acephalous but all-powerful entity known as the world economy.

Surely the effacing of the frontiers, not only between nations but disciplines as well, and the exponential growth of knowledge, are immutable. As surely, human rights and its ethical corollary of solidarity and sharing is today the only truly universal ideal. Our point of departure towards this goal must be the planet's ills. The radical changes that are creating global upheavals must be taken into account. But we cannot hope to achieve the ideal - or know what to do and with whom - unless we first identify the mechanisms that have created today's reality.

René LEFORT

CONTENTS

Conventions to protect cultural heritage.

PAGE AND SCREEN 4

PEOPLE 5

FOCUS

Pages 6 to 16

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES: A GLOBAL CONTRACT

Laying down the arms.

PLANET:

For a culture of peace:
• RIDING THE PEACE TRAIN 18

Science:
• "BOILING FROM THE BOTTOM" ... 20

Education:
• A RAY OF SUNSHINE 22

Archives:
• MEMORY AT RISK 23

LOOKING AHEAD 24

Science in Africa.

Editorial and Distribution Services: UNESCO SOURCES, 2 place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP. Tel. (1) 45 68 16 73. Fax. (1) 40 65 90 52.
This magazine is destined for use as an information source and is not an official UNESCO document. ISSN 1014-6989.

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UNESCO SOURCES

BOOKS

THE CULTURAL TRIANGLE OF SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is the cradle of one of the world's great civilizations. From the third century B.C.,

successive Buddhist kingdoms flourished within a triangular area bounded in the north by the ancient capital and sacred city of Anuradhapura, in the east by the medieval capital Polonnaruva and in the south by Kandy, the hilltop capital of the last Sinhala king.

What is now called the Cultural Triangle was the centre from which the influence of Theravada Buddhist and Sinhala artistic genius spread. The astonishing concentration of monastic settlements, royal palaces, gardens and vast irrigation works, as well as rock paintings and sculpture, testified to the artistic and technological achievements of those ancient kingdoms.

Thus, Director-General, Federico Mayor, introduces this publication which sets out to describe the results of two decades of excavation and research carried out under the international campaign launched in 1980 to safeguard the principal monuments and sites of the Cultural Triangle, one of the largest cultural heritage projects carried out to date by UNESCO. Rich in colour illustrations, it provides an account of our present state of knowledge of the six major sites adopted by UNESCO for the campaign.

● ***The Cultural Triangle of Sri Lanka**, UNESCO/CCF 1993, illus., 200 pp., 300 FF.*

EDUCATION, ADJUSTMENT & RECONSTRUCTION: options for change

Increasingly, the problems faced by developing countries in the education sector - due in part to ill-conceived structural adjustment and stabilization policies - are assuming crisis proportions and compromising the prospects for national economic recovery and development as well as the welfare of large numbers of people. A detailed account of the effect of structural adjustment on education systems, this document compares adjusting and non-adjusting countries. Arguing that, in general, there has been no progress in the educational situation of most countries under adjustment, the authors discuss specific options best suited to each.

● ***Education, Adjustment & Reconstruction: Options for Change**, by F. Reimers & L. Tiburcio, UNESCO 1993, 116 pp., 60 FF.*

EARLY INTERVENTION & CULTURE: Preparing for Literacy, the Interface between Theory & Practice.

Relating child development and early intervention issues to literacy acquisition from a cross-cultural perspective, this volume is based on the Conference "Family, School and Literacy: the preschool period," organized by the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO and the Bernard van Leer Foundation which concentrates on low-cost initiatives in early childhood for socially and culturally disadvantaged children. It falls in line with directives of the Education for All Conference (Jomtien, Thailand 1990) which recognized that learning begins at birth, and that the health and education given to infants and young children are the building blocks of future learning.

● ***Early Intervention & Culture: Preparing for Literacy: the Interface between Theory & Practice**, L. Eldering and P. Leseman, eds., Netherlands Nationcl Commission for UNESCO 1993, 352 pp., 70 FF.*

PERIODICALS

MUSEUM INTERNATIONAL

Museum Careers

Apart from its scholarly purpose, the museum is now seen in terms of leisure, entertainment, tourism and often as a focus of community interest and involvement. Education now shares pride of place with conservation of the cultural heritage. The result has been a diversification of museum roles, with museum staff becoming proficient in a variety of disciplines. To deal with the increasing complexity of programme and operations, the wide variety of museum job categories, some of which are

described in this issue, have been extended beyond the traditional scholar-curator, to include professionals responsible for the care, restoration and management of collections, others for security, finance, exhibition design, audiovisual and traveling exhibitions, exchange, or to meet the needs of special types of visitors such as the disabled.

THE UNESCO COURIER

Human Rights: the unfinished task. There was basically a convergence of opinions, but at the same time a good deal of divergence at the World Conference on Human Rights, organized by the UN in Vienna in June 1993. The March **Courier** reports on the problems posed, the different approaches used, and the final consensus reached by the about 7,000 representatives of 170 countries and 800 NGOs at the Conference. While the principle of the universality of human rights was endorsed, the controversy arose when it came to their application within specific cultural contexts.

This issue also contains an interview with the Mauritian poet Edouard Maunick.

RECORDS

SICILY

Music for Holy Week

During Holy Week, popular ceremonies inspired by the life of Christ still take place today in many villages in Sicily.

These often englobe mystical rituals dating from pre-Christian agrarian feasts. The form of the rites and the comportment of the faithful reflect ancient cultual patterns which aim more at attaining well-being on this earth than at spiritual re-generation. Against a background, at times almost pagan, arise the sounds of bands, the cries of invocation to Christ, the *lamenti* which, in dialect, Latin or less frequently in Italian, express in choral singing the themes of the passion.

● ***Sicily: Music for Holy Week**. Anthology of Traditional Music series, UNESCO/Auvidis 1993. Cassette 52 FF, CD 109 FF.*

Publications and periodicals are on sale at the UNESCO Bookshop, or by order from UNESCO Publishing, 7 place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, and in Member States through national distributors. Catalogue on request.

NEIL ANDERSEN: OCEAN DOCTOR

"I have been associated with the sea for three generations," said oceanographer Neil Andersen, whose Norwegian great-grandfather captained the first three-masted schooner to sail into New York Harbour.

Dr. Andersen, 58, was steering a pretty tight course at the helm of a 10-member scientific panel meeting at UNESCO Headquarters last month (February 10 to 15) to put finishing touches to the Health of the Ocean (HOTO) module, one of five (the others deal with climate, living resources, coastal zones, and marine operational services) being set up under the new Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

NEIL ANDERSEN
(Photo UNESCO/Michel Claude)

Initiated in March 1992 by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, in cooperation with WMO, UNEP and the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), GOOS is expected to become fully operational by the year 2007.

It will build on existing programmes, some of which - like the IOC Programme for Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME) - Dr. Andersen has helped set up and coordinate over nearly 20 years of collaboration with UNESCO. He explained, however, that GOOS will go much farther, in its practical applications, as an internationally coordinated system for data collection, analysis and prediction. *"The easiest way to understand GOOS,"* he said, *"is to compare it with the worldwide meteorological system which exists. So far we have no such structure for the marine environment."*

A framework for monitoring contaminants and assessing their effects, HOTO will serve as an early warning system, essential to the wellbeing of coastal populations and their economic activities like fishing and tourism.

After graduating from Clark University and taking his PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Andersen worked with the US Coast Guard and Naval services and at the prestigious Woods Hole and Scripps Oceanographic Institutes before assuming his current post as Head of the Chemical Oceanography Programme of the U.S. National Science Foundation.

For this tough skipper, long hours and working weekends are the rule, even when he's traveling - about 200,000 miles a year. *"We don't like people who work less than 12 hours a day,"* he said. *"Relaxation? Sure - between midnight and six a.m."* Although in his rare spare moments he builds ship replicas like Sir Thomas Drake's *Golden Hind*, he insists he hasn't taken a holiday in 20 years. *"My job's a holiday, "* he said.

Betty WERTHER

LEWIS LANCASTER: BUDDHISM ON LINE

"Setting up a Centre to computerize ancient Buddhist scripts, is a very ambitious venture," said Lewis Lancaster, Buddhist scholar and head of the East Asian Languages Department of the University of California in Berkeley (U.S.). *"But it would be a just and fitting service to render Buddhism, the first world religion to break out of its cultural homeland (*India*) and spread to other parts of the globe".*

Soft-spoken Prof. Lancaster, 61, was among about 50 Buddhist monks, scholars, computer whiz kids, and administrators attending a Workshop organized by the Government of Sri Lanka and UNESCO at the Buddhist and Pali University in Colombo from January 19 to 26.

"The purpose of the meeting," Prof. Lancaster explained *"was to set standards for computerizing Buddhist texts, and lay the groundwork for a UNESCO Buddhist Information and Research Centre. We also discussed links with international telecom systems like INTERNET so that scholars around the world can have instant access to information stored at the Centre".*

"The idea of computerizing the tremendous number of Buddhist texts is mind-boggling," said Prof. Lancaster who, however, has already advanced the process by computerizing the *Tripitaka*, the vast body of Buddhist teachings, in Siam (Thailand). *"It will require vast amounts of technical know-how, an army of skilled personnel and a lot of money. But I'm not at all pessimistic. With the zeal and interest shown here and the commitment of UNESCO and the governments concerned, especially Sri Lanka, the task should be feasible."*

Sri Lanka is one of the few countries where *Theravada*, which claims to adhere most closely to the original doctrines of Buddha transcribed into the

LEWIS LANCASTER
(Photo UNESCO)

sacred Pali language (1st century B.C.), still exists.

It also boasts some 15,000 palm leaf manuscripts, mainly Buddhist and many in need of urgent conservation. At the meeting, a project was launched to record their contents on CD-ROM with help for image scanning from Prof. Lancaster and the University of California.

Combining capacities of the Buddhist and Pali University and the University of Colombo's Institute of Computer Technology with input from institutions and individuals worldwide, Prof. Lancaster insists *"the new Centre will be able to store a wealth of texts in a wide variety of languages, along with bibliographic information, dictionaries, biographies, maps and so on. In fact,"* he smiled, *"the sky's the limit."*

Sugoosware SENADHIRA
Colombo

● *"Of all the generations in the history of humanity, you are the ones who must bring about the most absolute change, because you are the first planetary generation.* ***YOU ARE CONDEMNED TO SHARE****".*

Thus spake Abbé Pierre, France's most celebrated champion of the poor and homeless, at UNESCO Headquarters on February 26. He was addressing himself mainly to youth but also to eminent personalities like Nobel prize-winning physicist Georges Charpak, President Aristide of Haiti, and Archbishop Dom Helder Camara of Brazil, at a symposium on the theme *"Responsibility of Individuals and Governments: Towards World Solidarity,"* commemorating the 40th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's first, now famous, appeal in favour of the homeless during the particularly bitter winter of 1954.

"DON'T DESTROY OUR HERITAGE". THE WINNING POSTER IN A CAMBODIAN CONTEST IN 1993 - OR HOW TO PUT INTO PRACTICE UNESCO'S CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC OF CULTURAL PROPERTY.
កុំបំផ្លាញកេតនភ័ណ្ឌជាតិ

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES: A GLOBAL CONTRACT

UNESCO's activities such as the protection of monuments, educational reform or environmental research are well known. The Organization's role is both intellectual and operational. Less well known though, is its normative action - the setting of international "norms" and "standards" which can be used by Member States to facilitate and harmonize their relations with others or to draw up national legislation. Thus the Organization contributes to the constitution of a form of international law - a global contract between nations. Such a set of "game-rules" is indispensable given the increasing complexity of international relations (see below).

These instruments are born from the emergence within the international community of a sufficient number of "common denominators" - which can sometimes prove long and difficult when the issue at hand is as sensitive, for example, as that of bioethics (p.14). They are applied more or less broadly (p.11) but their impact is far from negligeable (p.15) - often being given added impetus through non-governmental organizations (p.9). And finally, they must evolve with the times, as in the case of the copyright convention (p.10) or the Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property in armed conflict (p.16).

Every group has - and always needs - ground rules. You can see them even in primitive societies or in the ties between peoples in the earliest days of international relations. Even when there seemed to be anything but rules - when things were "settled" by nations resorting to force, violence and war - you could still see traces of rules.

Anarchy or the *"law of the jungle"* had its own code of behaviour, and even the purest and most blatant resort to force required the observance of *"rules"* - a variety of attitudes or ways to behave.

Violence between peoples involved its own taboos, at the same time as it justified the *"rights"* or actions of the strongest and sometimes ended in genuine *"peace treaties"* - a collection of rules imposed by the victor on the vanquished providing the framework for a new definition of their relationship.

The oldest treaty we know of was made in Mesopotamia in 3100 B.C. between the victorious ruler of the city-state of Lagash and the nearby city-state of Umma, which he had defeated. There was also the very famous peace treaty between the Pharoah Ramses II and the Hittite King Hattusili II in 1279 B.C.

But the progress of humanity is measured by how far you move on from simple rules of conduct (observable in all kinds of groups) to the quality of those rules. Human progress, which has always shown itself in countless different ways, is also manifested by the continuous efforts of human beings to control their relations with their fellows, just as countries try at the same time to regulate their own ties.

JUSTICE AND ETHICS

A moral dimension has crept into this double effort. This means not just trying to tame the egos or appetites of people and nations, but to make those relations *"moral"* and *"just"*. While noting that the concepts of good and evil, of justice and ethics are very much subject to change and are relative concepts, it is clear that beyond the simple rule, it is its *"quality"* - its inclusion of justice and ethics - which has signalled human progress.

Also, what we call *"principles"* - expressed fairly well in legal rules - have partly gone beyond this limited context and become universal. Since the end of the Second World War and the proliferation of international organisations in which member states are constantly talking to each other about all the world's problems, a number of "common denominators" have been identified to guide the conduct of rulers and countries, beyond any differences between civilisations. There is too a body of rules and global principles - the minimum number accepted and shared such as the declaration that human rights - that are universal.

UNESCO is one international organisation which, as part of its work, has made a valuable contribution to drawing up these shared principles, applying them and seeing they are respected. Its mission covers fundamental areas which go to the heart of what human beings and peoples stand for and what they aspire to. Every country has a duty to try to make these ideals a reality but usually does not have the means to do

so by itself. For example, the fight against illiteracy in many parts of the world required mobilisation of material and human resources often beyond local capacities. The same is true in other fields, from the preservation of historic and natural sites to training scientists.

UNESCO is a place where cultures meet. This helps enormously to make each of them known and understood beyond its normal boundaries. It also plays a big role in gathering scientific information, organising conferences and setting up aid and cooperation programmes, all of which makes for very useful exchanges and contacts between scientists and intellectuals from all fields.

STANDARDS TO LIVE BY

These kinds of activities are the ones the public knows best. They show the tools UN member states have given UNESCO to carry out programmes, which have direct and visible results for those concerned. But like many other international organisations, UNESCO also plays an important role in setting standards for the world community to live by. This entails setting out the legal rules for international conventions and recommendations.

UNESCO, like other world bodies, was set up by nations to carry out certain tasks. This has called for a mutual commitment by the countries involved which was set down in an international treaty. This serves as the Organization's constitution, which was adopted in London on 16 November 1945 and has since been amended several times. This constitution, after setting out UNESCO's aims, lists its various parts and the role of each. For example, the General Conference, the plenary body in which all member states sit, has the job of organising *"international conferences of States on education, the sciences and humanities or the dissemination of knowledge"* (Article IV, paragraph 3 of the Constitution). The Constitution also says that the *"General Conference shall, in adopting proposals for submission to the Member States, distinguish between recommendations and international conventions submitted for their approval"* (Article IV, paragraph 4).

UNESCO can achieve some of its ambitious goals through this two-part method of setting standards and norms. But when aims or circumstances change, even conventions have to be revised.

Rules of international law in fact have a life of their own. We can talk about their birth, development and death. This happens, for example, when changing social conditions render parts of it unsuitable, or when the adoption of a new one linking the same countries wholly or partly cancels out the earlier solutions they had agreed on.

So the international obligations in a convention are not fixed forever. States can amend and adapt a convention as need be. A broad range of standard-setting, such as that done by UNESCO, is inevitably subject to such revision. This is quite normal in any activity where a changing world and changing attitudes play a big part.

The reader will notice this when reading some of the articles in this issue about conventions sponsored by UNESCO, such as the Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property in armed conflicts, the World Heritage Convention, the convention on copyright or the planned convention on bio-ethics.

Mohammed BEDJAOUI
President of the
International Court of Justice
The Hague

THE COMMITTEE ON CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

While UNESCO is not an international court, it can and does act through the Executive Board's Committee on Conventions and Recommendations (CR) on alleged violations of human rights within its fields of competence, affecting, for example, teachers, writers, artists, etc...

Meeting twice a year, the CR examines complaints and when these are deemed admissible, sends a copy to the government concerned. This procedure has been successful largely because it is carried out in the strictest confidence and with the constant concern to work out amicable solutions.

Thus, from 1978 to 1992, 414 communications were examined; 129 alleged victims were either released or acquitted; 20 were authorized to leave the State concerned and 34 to return; 24 were able to resume work or activities from which they had been barred; 11 were able to resume a banned publication or broadcast. In addition, such matters as the issuing of passports, the award of scholarships and diplomas and amendments to certain discriminatory laws were resolved. In all, 241 individual cases have been settled as a result of the CR's intervention.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER...

After years in the wilderness, the Wetlands convention is gaining ground, thanks to a devoted team of birdwatchers and biologists.

Even a great idea whose time has come needs more than inspiration and good intentions. Visionary founders must be followed by workers who convert abstract designs into concrete reality. The "Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat", learned this truth the hard way.

Eighteen countries signed the treaty in the Iranian town of Ramsar in February 1971, committing themselves to designate at least one "Wetland of International Importance" in their territory for inclusion on a world list, and to promote their conservation and *"wise use."* UNESCO agreed to be the Depositary of the Convention.

But the founders neglected to give the Triennial Conference of Contracting Parties decision-making powers or to provide any means of financing the Convention. Moreover, they failed to include procedures for amending the original text so that these deficiencies could be remedied. A series of meetings and negotiations over many years were necessary to create the lacking structures, including a Convention Bureau, administered since 1988 by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in Gland, Switzerland. Thanks to its efforts, "Ramsar", as the Convention is called for short, has hit high gear.

YOUNG ENTHUSIASTS

As Ramsar Secretary-General, Dan Navid, 44, a lawyer from the U.S., heads a team of enthusiasts mostly under 40. Navid has worked on the drafts of several treaties and contributed to the UNESCO guide-lines for the World Heritage Convention. His Assistant Secretary General, Mike Smart, *"is an amazing guy, a world-travelled all-around conservationist and linguist"* who picked Cambridge over Oxford for his studies because it had better bird-watching. U.K. biologist Tim Jones, another avid ornitholigist, is responsible for Ramsar's data base and monitoring activities and the European region, while Monica Herzig from Mexico, is in charge of international cooperation, transboundary migration and the Neo-Tropical region of the Americas. Satochi Kobayashi, a technical officer for wetland reserves and training programmes, as well as for the Asia-Pacific region, is a biologist sponsored at Gland by the Japanese city of Kashiro and Communications officer Mireille Katz, from Switzerland, looks after public information and promotion.

This dynamic team has increased Ramsar's membership to 80 and the list of designated wetlands to 650. After 16 years without any contributions, members now provide an annual $2.25 million in core funding. A roughly equivalent amount is received in special project support.

DAN NAVID (L.) WITH A COLLEAGUE AT THE TREBON PROTECTED AREA - CZECH REPUBLIC (Photo Ramsar)

"Conventions that followed us, such as CITES (covering trade in endangered species) *and the Bonn Convention* (on transboundary wildlife migration) *benefitted from our experience when setting up their structures,"* says Navid. *"Now I'm getting calls for advice from new groups hoping to establish conventions."* Ramsar has also broadened its concerns to include the peat bogs of Ireland and Venice's lagoon, arctic tundra and desert oases, as well as marshlands such as the Pantanal in Brazil. And these days, the species of most concern is surely homo sapiens.

Humans have always rushed to drain marshes, fill in mudflats, pump out the water table, dump refuse into rivers and hem them in with levees and dams. Result: the Mississippi in the USA and the Rhone in western Europe, deprived of their flood plains, burst their artificial banks and damage runs into ten figures; worthless Arabian desert sand is dumped onto Gulf tidelands to make cheap industrial land where valuable shrimp once fed and bred; millions must be spent on water treatment and land reclamation: wildfowl species disappear or are reduced to a few hundred birds. *"In the industrialized world,"* says Navid, *"only remnants of wetlands are left. But in the developing world there is still a wealth of untouched wetlands needing protection, but we must act now."*

PROMOTION THE KEY

The Convention Parties must report actual or potential ecological changes in their wetlands caused by *"technological development, pollution or other human interference."*

The Ramsar Bureau also receives information from non-governmental and other sources. It can send in a team from its roster of experts to monitor a situation and suggest remedial action or a planning strategy. Reports are made public, so if a government rejects the findings, an environmental group might use them to campaign for action. However, *"we get best results by negotiation rather than confrontation,"* explains Navid.

Promotion has been a key to Ramsar's late-blooming recognition. The Secretariat has given Ramsar a corporate identity with a bird-on-the-wing logo. It produces a newsletter in four languages, photos and information packs for the media, scientific publications and sells CDs and cassettes of waterfowl calls, a Ramsar watch and T-shirts. These activities may not be unusual in the world of mass membership environmental NGOs, but they are a first for the more staid ranks of inter-governmental conventions. Well publicized international gatherings have brought home Ramsar's message: Wetlands are not wastelands!

Don ALLAN
Gland, Switzerland

COPYRIGHT AND MARKET FORCES

Copyright laws were originally aimed at supporting and rewarding artistic and intellectual creation. But when such works become mere merchandise ...

Keeping control of what happens to something you have written or created and having a say in how much you earn from it is a vital incentive for authors and artists. This is the system of copyright. The author gets a small part of the profits from sale or use of his/her work and if it is enough to live on, a life of full-time creativity becomes possible - in literature, music, sculpture or science and technology.

But those who create things don't do it just for themselves or just to earn their daily bread. They also - perhaps even mainly - want to say something to the public. Thus the legal rights accorded to artists and writers *have a double objective*: they not only encourage creation and contribute to the blooming of national cultures but also ensure the widest distribution for intellectual and artistic works. The expansion of communications and use of technology have widened that distribution still further, and protection is now needed worldwide (see box).

Attempts to draft an international treaty on intellectual works date from the end of the 19th century and the 1886 Berne Convention to protect literary and artistic work. Several pan-American conventions were also signed between 1889 and 1946. Countries unable to join any of these conventions because of their own laws, administrative reasons or their level of economic development usually handled the matter of copyright with bilateral agreements.

Conscious of the need to create a diplomatic instrument that would win agreement from all countries, UNESCO's second General Conference, held in Mexico in 1947, decided the Organization should look into how to improve copyright worldwide, taking into account existing agreements. This resulted in the 1952 Universal Copyright Convention. It did not replace the Berne Convention or the pan-American ones. Instead, it enabled member states of both of these to form clear and stable relationships to protect copyright. It also allowed for the inclusion of countries economically and culturally different. It was amended in 1971, along with the Berne Convention, to add sections favouring developing countries.

Thus the Convention has managed to spread the idea of copyright to 93 countries which have ratified or joined it, and can justly be considered a great success.

But despite further amendments in recent years the Universal, Berne and pan-American conventions, they are behind the advances of modern technolgy, which has given rise to new creative techniques and greatly increased the risk of imitation.

The international trend is towards standardizing laws. These days powerful economies also dominate in matters of copyright, as in other fields noted by economists after World War II. This has led the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to introduce its own rules concerning copyright. They don't in any way limit the actions of other organizations in this domain. But GATT's aims are bound to alter the nature of copyright. Already the original goal of rewarding creativity and an author's self-expression, has been changed. Now the reward goes to the firm which has made a big investment, to develop, say, a computer programme. This may be understandable but it doesn't have much to do with copyright or with the mission UNESCO's founders gave it, as expressed in the Universal Copyright Convention.

It should not be forgotten that despite the technological and economic realities that render necessary an adjustment of copyright's legal framework, artistic and intellectual creation cannot be considered in the same way as mere merchandise. Yet the focus on the market has become such that we are increasingly talking of "cultural products" just as we would speak of industrial and commercial products. But they are fundamentally different things. Goods in the latter categories are destined to be used, worn out, discarded and replaced, while those in the "cultural" domain are created to defy time, and are looked upon as the cultural heritage of nations. With this in mind, the international community should seek the means to reconcile economic constraints and cultural imperatives.

Marie-Claude DOCK
Former Director, UNESCO's Copyright Division

THE HIGH COST OF PIRACY

The music industry provides a good example of the high financial stakes involved in copyright and the role of new technology. According to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, losses in 1992 through piracy totalled two billion dollars, including over 25 million pirate CDs worth more than $400 million. Asia alone accounted for $618 million in pirate sales, and within the Asian region, China sold almost as many pirate cassettes and CDs (215 million) as legitimate units (270 million). Europe follows in second place with $556 million, North America with $479 million, Latin America with $302 million and Africa, the Middle East and Turkey almost $141 million in pirate sales.

ADMITTING, BUT OFTEN ... NON-COMMITTING

Many countries vote in favour of a convention, but then fail to ratify it. French legal expert Pierre-Michel Eisemann explains why "this should not be viewed as bad faith or machiavellism".

Whether they are called "Declaration" or "Charter" the 33 Recommendations adopted by UNESCO's General Conference are alike in that, while they prescribe international standards or norms, they are not binding on Member States.

These rulings are not pointless, however, since each country is obliged by UNESCO's Constitution to submit them to its relevant bodies within a year of their adoption, and it is not rare that they influence national legislation.

On the other hand, the 21 Conventions adopted by UNESCO, or of which UNESCO is depositary, and their 11 Protocols may be legally binding, provided a State agrees to become a Party thereto.

Unlike a Recommendation, the legal nature of a Convention may persuade countries to obey it.

But strictly speaking, a country can do what it likes, since the international community does not have the means to draft the equivalent of national laws which, once voted by a parliament, become mandatory for all.

The simple adoption of a convention by UNESCO's General Conference does not as such create an obligation. Out of respect for sovereignty, no country is held to a UNESCO-adopted convention, unless it expressly agrees to be.

GIVING CONSENT

This consent is given in different ways - sometimes through ratification by the Head of State, sometimes by approval or acceptance of a government. Each country has its own rules governing, notably, those instances which require parliamentary approval.

But, under no circumstances can a state which has not clearly manifested its intention of becoming a party to a convention, be held legally obligated by its terms. And, in any case, a convention can only take effect after a certain number of ratifications, approvals or acceptances have been received.

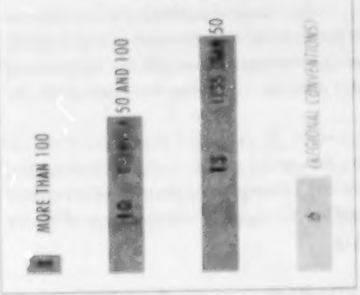
Except for the Multilateral Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation on Copyright Royalties (1979), all UNESCO conventions have entered into force, although they bind a widely-varying number of countries. With the exception of the six regional conventions on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education, whose application is geographically limited, none of the other conventions open to UNESCO Member States (or other "guest" countries) has attracted all the nations entitled to adhere.

The Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972) has the best score with 137 ratifications while, at the bottom of the list, the Convention on Technical and Vocational Education (1989) has only eight. The other instruments fall somewhere in between with an average 50 states parties each.

It may seem strange that a convention, on the day it is adopted, gets the required two-thirds vote at UNESCO's General Conference, but that then less than a third of Member States agree to become parties. This situation is, however, paradoxical only in appearance.

When a country votes at the General Conference, it knows that the act is not a legal commitment to the convention. It can thus vote in favour of a convention while, at the same time, being totally opposed to its ratification.

THE NUMBER OF CONVENTIONS, PROTOCOLS AND AGREEMENTS, AND THE NUMBER OF STATES THAT HAVE RATIFIED THEM



This should not be viewed as bad faith or machiavellism. A state may simply be registering lack of objection to a convention which, after adoption, can be ratified by those states which so desire. In other words, a country may not want to commit itself but can agree to allow other states to do so.

In addition, a country may not choose to take an official position until after a convention is adopted. National authorities may first consult several ministries and undertake a thorough examination of the consequences of adherence, weighing all of the contingent rights and obligations, before taking a decision.

In some cases, a state may not ratify because it sees no interest in the object of the convention. Others will object that the obligations are too heavy or complicated, or too difficult to put into effect.

The fact is that, although we are often tempted to believe the contrary, states attach great importance to their obligations under a convention and avoid becoming a party without due consideration.

BACK BURNER

On the other hand, it can also be said that many states which do not adhere to an international convention have not done so as a result of a long and carefully-weighed decision. In many cases, the choice of whether to ratify an instrument may simply be placed on a back burner by an overworked national administration and then "forgotten". In this case, the non-participation of a country reflects only a relative lack of interest, not rejection of the standards the convention seeks to set.

Since each state decides for itself, it is normal that even when multilateral conventions have a universal dimension, the number of ratifications varies from one instrument to another.

The broadest possible adherence to a convention is of course desirable, but this is not the only criterion of its practical importance.

Indeed, the very function of a convention is to present an ensemble of international standards and norms.

When these are written down, they can have an influence on the behaviour of states, and guide even those countries which, for one reason or another, have not agreed to ratify the convention setting down these norms.

Pierre Michel EISEMANN
Professor of International Law
University of Paris XIII

FROM ARTISTS AND RECORD PRODUCERS...

The 32 conventions, agreements and protocols adopted by UNESCO's General Conference since 1948 cover a range of subjects and reflect changing times and technologies.

NAME AND *PURPOSE*	DATE OF ADOPTION	NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES
Agreement for Facilitating the International Circulation of Visual and Auditory Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural Character (Beirut Agreement). *(Exempts this type of material from customs duties when it is imported into those states that have ratified the agreement, and ensures that it receives the same advantages as nationally produced material).*	10 December 1948	31
Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials, with Protocol annexed. *(Has the same aims as the preceding agreement, but in this case for written works, and artworks of an educational, scientific and cultural nature).*	17 June 1950	84
Universal Copyright Convention, with three Protocols annexed. *(Seeks to clearly define relations between States Parties to the Berne Convention on Copyright (1886), the Latin-American conventions, and those states who are not party to any of the established conventions in this domain).*	6 September 1952	92
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, with Protocol (The Hague Convention). *(The contracting parties undertake in times of war to safeguard cultural property whether it be on their own territory of that of their adversary).*	14 May 1954	84
Convention concerning the International Exchange of Publications. *(Establishes a basis for the exchange of governmental and non-governmental publications such as books, and periodicals).*	3 December 1958	46
Convention concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States. *(Idem for official journals and parliamentary annals).*	3 December 1958	50
Convention against Discrimination in Education, with a Protocol instituting a Conciliation and Good Offices Commission to be responsible for seeking the settlement of any disputes which may arise between States Parties to this Convention. *(Favorizes the adoption of measures to promote equal opportunities in this domain - between boys and girls, for example, or minority groups).*	14 December 1960	84
International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations (The Rome Convention). *(Prompted by the arrival of records and radio, this convention sets out the rules to defend the rights of artists and performers as well as record producers and radio networks).*	26 October 1961	30
Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. *(States parties undertake to regulate the transfer of ownership, and the import and export of cultural goods, and to recover and return stolen or illegally imported cultural property).*	14 November 1970	81
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, with Protocol. *(Promotes the rational exploitation of wetlands and protects waterfowl habitats).*	2 February 1971	80

... TO WATERFOWL

NAME AND *PURPOSE*	DATE OF ADOPTION	NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES
Universal Copyright Convention as revised at Paris on 24 July 1971, with two annexed Protocols. *(Sets down a preferential copyright regime for developing countries).*	24 July 1971	57
Convention for the Protection of Producers of Phonograms against Unauthorized duplication of their Phonograms. *(Completes the Rome Convention for those states who have not joined this latter, to allow them to act against the illegal reproduction of records).*	29 October 1971	51
Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. *(This convention requires each State Party to protect cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value located on its territory, and to help other states do the same).*	16 November 1972	137
Convention relating to the Distribution of Programme-carrying Signals Transmitted by Satellite. *(To prevent the pirating of radio programmes relayed by satellite).*	21 May 1974	18
Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean. *(Allows for the recognition, by a state in this region, of diplomas acquired in the other states there).*	19 July 1974	*16
International Convention on the recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab and European States bordering on the Mediterranean. *(Idem).*	17 December 1976	*10
Idem for the Arab States.	22 December 1978	*14
Multilateral Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation of Copyright Royalties, and additional Protocol. *(Aims to prevent double taxation on royalties arising in one State party when their beneficiaries are resident in another State party).*	13 December 1979	6
Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region. *(The same as for the other regional conventions mentioned above).*	21 December 1979	*37
Regional Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas, Degrees and other Academic Qualifications in Higher Education in the African States. *(As mentioned above).*	5 December 1981	*15
Idem for Asia and the Pacific.	16 December 1983	12
Convention on Technical and Vocational Education. *(Formulates directives to help states draw up programmes for this type of education).*	10 November 1989	8

* *These conventions concern specific regions only and as such have a limited number of States parties.*

PROTECTING HUMANITY FROM ITSELF

The human genome has the potential to change humanity. Such a vast and perhaps dangerous field cannot be left unchecked.

Should science be used for good or for evil, for human progress or for barbarity? Never before in human history has this dilemma been so acute.

We already know the huge potential of research into human genes, even if we don't yet have the details. The benefits to humanity could be countless. But it could also lead to amazing and very disturbing things like cloning - creating identical human beings.

These worries have sparked off a debate, mainly in Western countries, on what has become known as "bio-ethics". A number of national or even regional bodies have been set up to look at the questions posed, but UNESCO is the first international organisation to have set up truly international committee on the issue. It is chaired by Noëlle Lenoir, a member of France's Constitutional Council, and includes well-known scientists, philosophers, jurists, sociologists and politicians.

The last UNESCO General Conference (1993) mandated this committee to prepare *"an international instrument on the protection of the human genome"*. Texts of relevant international and national laws are already being compiled and studied, along with legal precedents and rulings, with the help of UN bodies, especially the World Health Organization.

A WIDE OPEN FIELD

As yet there is no international document that really deals with the question. The nearest thing is a very general statement made last March by the UN Human Rights Commission, which stresses the need for international cooperation to ensure all humankind benefits from the life sciences and to prevent any use of them for other than the good of humanity.

Neither are there many regulations yet. Where they do exist, it is on a country by country basis. They are also widely different from one situation to the next. In Germany, for example, research is forbidden on human embryos except for therapeutic reasons, whilst the United Kingdom allows all research up until 14 days.

The legal void is worrying in view of the very dramatic research going on. As the UNESCO committee noted at its first meeting last September, *"genetic research has implications for all aspects of people's lives"*. Ethics, said the French writer Albert Camus, is *"introducing a bit of order into a chaotic world."* And without laws, there is only anarchy or tyranny. How, for example, can details of a person's genetic make-up be kept confidential? And how can we prevent people being refused a job or insurance because they have a possible genetic predisposition to a disease?

Why are we thinking about a convention on human genetics and ignoring other aspects of bio-ethics? Well, too broad a convention could prove unwieldy. And then, genetic engineering has earthshaking ethical implications - it can change an entire person. The memory of Nazi horrors still lingers to keep us on our guard. So the most crucial issues in bio-ethics will concern the human genome.

Drafting an international agreement on such a sensitive matter is very tricky. One possible solution would be a declaration by UNESCO or the UN General Assembly which would establish the basic principles, centred on respect for human rights and human dignity. But a declaration without a convention attached, means there would be no obligation to respect it (see page 11).

The problems and pitfalls are huge. Enunciation of the broad principles must, for example, take account of different cultures and traditions. What is acceptable in one country is out of the question in another. Thus the scientific problem has heavy cultural, philosophical, political, religious and economic overtones.

A draft convention may clash with powerful commercial interests, since genetic treatment of diseases and genetic therapy represent an enormous new field of development worth tens of billions of dollars annually. We may fall into quarrels like the dispute over tariffs among members of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). Scientists who are already worry of talk about regulations, might also rebel against what they see as restrictions on their research.

SOLID FOUNDATIONS NEEDED

But can we really stand idly by, in the name of free research and free enterprise, in a field which is going to be so crucial for the future of all humanity?

A solid foundation of general principles seems especially important because laws on bio-ethics face a new and dramatic version of an old problem: even as they are being drawn up and passed, they may be already made irrelevant because of increasingly rapid scientific progress. This is very serious and has no real solution.

Perhaps a new balance should be sought between a convention's basic principles and the scientific restraints it seeks to impose. So when something new comes up not covered by the convention, the general principles could at least ensure such things as respect for human rights and human dignity as well as banning discrimination.

Whatever is finally decided, we should remember we are at the dawn of an astounding era whose implications are almost beyond imagination and which is likely to change both human beings and humanity.

Hector GROS ESPIELL
Uruguay's Ambassador to UNESCO
Vice-Chairman of the International Bio-ethics Committee

THE POWER OF THE LAW

Conventions need to be backed up by national legislation to give them real weight. Australia has provided a model of the kind.

A little over 10 years ago, the largest public demonstrations in Australia since those against the Viet Nam war were held to protest a dam construction project on a World Heritage listed site in the state of Tasmania. The conflict saw hundreds of protestors, including the internationally known botanist, Professor David Bellamy, thrown into jail, created deep divisions within Australian society and contributed to the downfall of three governments.

The site concerned covered the Western Tasmanian Wilderness Parks, which were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1982. A report prepared by IUCN - the World Conservation Union - found that with its "*distinctive landforms, outstanding examples of cool-temperate rain forests, important aboriginal sites, and many endangered species of plants and animals, the area is unique and special at a world scale*". It also reported that there were "*still many discoveries to be made*" there, and that the State Government's plans to build a hydro-electric power dam on the Franklin River there "*would unquestionably destroy many of the key features for which the area warrants listing: the last wild river in Australia; outstanding scenic values; a major part of the temperate rainforest...*"

COMMONWEALTH VS. THE STATE

Article 4 of the World Heritage Convention states that "*Each state Party ...recognizes that the duty of ensuring the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage... belongs primarily to that state. It will do it all can to this end...*". The Federal Australian Labour Government, shortly after its election in May 1983, moved to do just that and passed the *World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983* to block the dam construction. However, the country's constitution gives land management power to the states - in this case the Tasmanian Government, which argued that the project would provide additional supplies of electricity as well as jobs.

In the unprecedented legal battle which followed, Australia's High Court upheld the legislation and gave the Federal Government the power to override the Tasmanian State Government, largely on the basis of Australia's obligations under the World Heritage Convention, which one of the presiding judges, Justice Mason, concluded "*calls for the establishment of a regime of control which will ensure protection and conservation of the property*". The 1983 Act prohibited construction of any dam, excavation works, roadworks, the erection of any buildings, the removal of any trees, the use of any explosives or the carrying out of "*any other works*" in the protected area. It is the only example in the world of legislation which specifically implements the international obligations imposed by the Convention.

Other types of laws exist, certainly, but are not as wide-sweeping as the Australian example. In the U.S, special legislation has been drawn up for World Heritage Sites - but only applies to property owned by the Federal Government. In Canada, the Provinces must agree to abide by the Convention before the Federal Government in Ottawa will nominate a site. In other countries such as Romania and Cambodia, UNESCO has helped frame laws to protect heritage sites.

It is also true that the World Heritage Committee has substantial influence that it does not hesitate to wield. Such "*moral persuasion*" has thus helped stop a water diversion project in the Royal Chitwan National Park in Nepal, and seen the introduction of a major anti-poaching programme in the Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania. At Tongariro in New Zealand, ski development has been restricted, while oil exploration plans have been withdrawn for L'Amistad in Panama. The Convention was also a contributing factor in the decision not to hold the World's Fair in Venice in the year 2000, while in Canada, its weight is such that the government has dropped a major copper, zinc and silver mining project in the Tatshenshini Wilderness Park to push its nomination for World Heritage listing!

Overall though, there is a general reluctance to legislate. "*It's true that it is difficult to draw up hard and fast legislation for all sites,*" says World Heritage Centre Director, Bernd Von Droste. "*Situations vary so much. Sites in cities for example that are subject to pressure from populations with changing needs, such as Venice, or areas that are of economic importance to a country, such as the potential iron mine on the Mt. Nimba site in Guinea.*" Nonetheless, says Von Droste, for the Convention to be effective "*we need some form of legal guarantees*" because the "*there is not a single site that is not the subject of conflict*". And growing demographic and development pressures, as well as the increasing competition for limited resources means that these conflicts can only become all the more difficult to resolve.

Sue WILLIAMS

CHANGING TIMES

The Hague Convention, which came into being as a response to the devastation of World War II, is being revamped to bring it up-to-date with modern warfare.

"Dubrovnik has been shelled from air, land and sea for 21 days now...Is there anything you can do to protect it ...?" demanded the Croatian city's population in an anguished letter to UNESCO in October 1991. It was just one of thousands of such letters the Organization has received protesting the often deliberate destruction of cultural property throughout the Balkans since fighting began.

And yet these monuments, places of worship and works of art were supposedly "protected" by an international convention - the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the Hague Convention) 1954. What went wrong?

CONVENTION VS. MISSILES

Quite simply warfare has changed since World War II. First came the intercontinental missiles launched from beyond the range of vision and without pinpoint accuracy to avoid monuments. Today's conflicts are shorter and more territorially restricted conflicts. And then, *"the present definition of cultural property in the 1954 Convention is rather out-of-date and very imprecise"*, writes UNESCO Consultant and arts policy expert Patrick Boylan in a review of the convention commissioned by the Organization and published last year. The procedure of appointing a Protecting Power to look after the interests of warring States - serving as a sort of letter box - is seen as largely redundant: none was appointed during the Gulf conflict for example. And the appointment of Commissioners-General whose specific task was to look after cultural property had proved so cumbersome that none has been appointed since the Six-Day War between Israel and the Arab States in 1967.

How then can the Convention's provisions be adapted for today's conflicts? How can more than the present 84 States be encouraged to become Party, and once Party, to be active in its implementation? Most importantly, how can the international community be given more power to intervene when its provisions are ignored? These questions are among those under discussion between the experts, as well as UNESCO's decision making bodies.

Boylan's report suggests the setting up of a permanent mechanism such as a body of experts to help UNESCO implement the Convention, broadening UNESCO's powers in this area, and launching a major public awareness campaign. He also urges States to translate the Convention into national legislation, to do what they can to protect cultural property in the event of all kinds of disaster, and alert military staff to the Convention's principles.

The UN is also supporting efforts to make the Convention more effective in the field. In a letter addressed to UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali assured *"that the United Nations peace-keepers will continue...to facilitate the work of UNESCO experts in the mission areas of UN operations"*. He also agreed to *"draw attention"* to the need for peace-keepers to be trained in cultural protection.

UNESCO is planning information campaigns for new States that have entered the international community in recent years, alerting them to the Convention's existence and how it works. This means not only giving information and documentation, but perhaps assisting with the drafting of national legislation. The first significant meeting of this kind for the Hague Convention will be held in 1995 for the Central Asian and trans-Caucasian countries which have emerged from the USSR.

CULTURAL CRIMES

The boldest move however, has been the establishment of the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal. Apart from investigating charges of genocide and rape in the Balkans conflict, it has also been empowered to prosecute those who have commited crimes against cultural property.

The cases under investigation include the attack against Dubrovnik, which figures on the World Heritage List the destruction of the mosques in the historic Bosnian city of Stolac, which some had considered appropriate for World Heritage listing, and the Mostar Bridge, also in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

UNESCO is working closely with the UN War Crimes Commission to gather the evidence needed to proceed with these cases. This is the first time such crimes will have been punished and presents one of the best indications of the importance being accorded to the Hague Convention as it enters its 40th year.

Lyndel PROTT
Chief of the International Standards Section
UNESCO

TO FIND OUT MORE ...

STANDARD SETTING INSTRUMENTS OF UNESCO: Conventions adopted by UNESCO or for which UNESCO is depositary, with ratifications as well as Recommendations. Available from the Office of International Standards and Legal Affairs which will also provide texts of specific instruments.

INTERNATIONAL LAW: Achievements and Prospects, by Mohammed Bedjaoui, ed.. A manual, mainly for students, describes international law today, its purpose, strengths and also its weaknesses. UNESCO/Martinus Nijhoff, The Netherlands, 1992, 1,276 pp.

THE WORLD HERITAGE: an illustrated fold-out brochure and map explaining how the World Heritage Convention and list work, and incorporating a complete, annually updated, list of sites.

Review of the **CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT** (The Hague Convention, 1954), by Patrick J. Boylan, 1993 (see article above).

THE ABC OF COPYRIGHT: Clarifies the complicated subject of copyright for all concerned with the creation, circulation and transfer of knowledge. UNESCO 1986 (3rd impr.), 73 pp.

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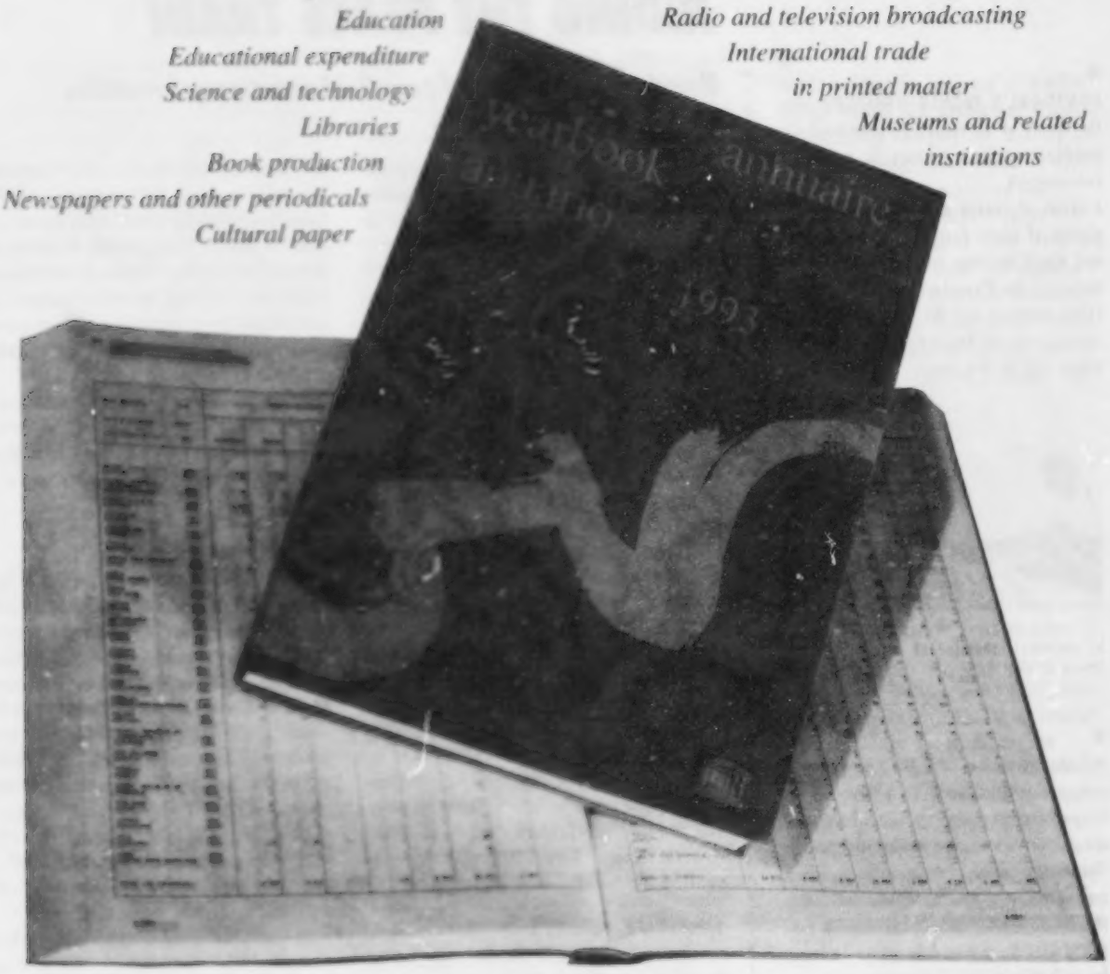
Newspapers and other periodicals
Cultural paper

Film and cinema
Radio and television broadcasting
International trade in printed matter
Museums and related instiutions



Statistical Yearbook 1993

Trilingual: English/French/Spanish
375 FF

UNESCO PUBLISHING OFFICE
7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP
Telephone: (1) 45 68 10 00 Telefax: (1) 42 73 30 07

RIDING THE PEACE TRAIN

How to build a culture of peace? 13 war-ravaged countries swap ideas on the subject.

Despite three days of virtually non-stop discussion, participants at a UNESCO-sponsored conference were unable to come up with a clear definition of a *"culture of peace"* that could be put into practice in countries like El Salvador, Cambodia and Mozambique, where the spectre of conflict and violence is slowing down national reconciliation.

The conference, from February 16-18 in the Salvadoran capital of San Salvador, brought together 13 countries (Angola, Belarus, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Israel, Mozambique, Nicaragua and the Philippines) plus the Palestine Liberation Organisation, with 70 others present as observers.

The first of its kind, the conference aimed to encourage and support the establishment of new democracies by giving countries recently at war a chance to reflect on and discuss their experiences with each other.

It was also seeking ideas for the concrete application of the United Nations Agenda for Peace, established by Secetary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali for the prevention and management of conflicts.

HEALTHY SPACES

"Peace does not come freely" Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani told the meeting, *"it demands sacrifices"*. The President said that his own country should *"study and analyse"* a culture of peace *"closely and imaginatively."* As apparently once-infallible ideologies crumbled, he said, a healthy space had opened up which had to be filled before new doctrines of *"oligarchy"* took their place.

For the Salvadoran Catholic hierarchy, Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez said there were three things to be done in wartime - help the victims, stop the conflict and make sure it didn't flare up again.

El Salvador itself began national reconciliation after the 1992 Chapultepec Accord which ended more than a decade of civil war that killed more than 75,000 people and caused huge economic damage. Recent violent incidents and delays in applying the peace agreement have clouded the future. But backed by UNESCO, El Salvador is going ahead with 25 ambitious projects, costing $25 million over five years and aimed at reinforcing the foundations of peace. They include literacy campaigns, educating people in democratic practices, training decision-makers and campaigns to stop violence against women and encourage them to take part in public affairs.

"The people of El Salvador could prove, through these projects, to be the pioneers for a culture of peace", said President Cristiani, *"serving as a model for the world."*

NO GUARANTEES

The conference clearly showed that signing a ceasefire in a civil war and then holding elections under international supervision was no guarantee of national reconciliation. A former leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador, Shafik Handal, was not invited to the conference but turned up anyway to tell of the continuing hostility between the once-warring parties. The conference organisers justified the non-invitation of Handal by saying the conference was international and not for the use of the Salvadoran government in the current election period.

Cambodia was another example. Free elections were held there under UN auspices last year but things have been hampered by the lack of an internal agreement. It took the intervention of Prince Sihanouk and a decree setting up a constituant assembly to restore peace between the factions. Kethy Tioulong, for the Cambodian government, told the conference that after 23 years of fighting, the situation was still *"fragile"* in a country that was *"devastated,"* where educational structures, cultural identity and basic services all needed to be restored.

Mozambique is in a similar situation. The transition from war to peace since an agreement signed on 4 October 1992 by the Mozambican government and the National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) has run into enormous difficulties. Maria de Lourdes Pale, for the government, said the peace process had however *"opened new vistas of hope,"* but 16 years of escalating violence and civil war which killed

PORTUGAL'S WORLD HERITAGE, was the theme of an exhibition organized at Headquarters from January 31 to February 10.
A series of superb photographs and models of seven Portuguese monuments and World Heritage sites were displayed, including the Monastery of Alcobaça (12th century) and the 16th century control zone of Angra do Heroismo - the oldest city in the Azores.

What activities is UNESCO carrying out, and what objectives is the Organization pursuing in the field of education? How can you participate? These and many other questions are answered in a new brochure entitled ***UNESCO: WORLDWIDE ACTION IN EDUCATION*** - Better Education Today for a Better World Tomorrow.
Full of eloquent colour illustrations, tables, maps and graphs, the 68-page brochure reports on progress made since the World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand 1990), the changes that have taken place and the priorities that have emerged.
It also includes the addresses of regional offices, centres, institutions, National Commissions and other bodies serving UNESCO's goals in all parts of the world.

☞ *Documentation and Information Services, Education Sector.*

UNESCO SOURCES

thousands of people and ravaged the economy are not easily forgotten. The Catholic Church and other religious groups have encouraged dialogue between the warring parties, but political divisions remain.

Since the peace agreement came into effect on 15 October 1992, Mozambique has been fairly quiet with the help of a United Nations presence. The army has been cut by 16,000 soldiers and a new unified one set up last December, allowing the start of a timetable leading up to multiparty elections next October. Peace has meant 450,000 refugees have been able to return to the country from neighbouring states and 1.2 million internal refugees have been able to go home.

The Salvadoran, Cambodian and Mozambican governments and the world community have pledged to rebuild war-damaged infrastructures especially schools and hospitals. The peace accords are undoubtedly vital in the three countries if people are to regain their old standard of living and get started on solid development.

TOLERANCE

The conference's preliminary conclusions stressed the need for educational and cultural strategies based on universal justice, freedom, fairness, toleration and solidarity. They emphasised that a culture of peace had to be locally-based and confirm the value of collective identity. Relevant teaching and information materials should also be produced for national and international use.

All stressed however that, most improtantly, any programme promoting a culture of peace must contribute to the process of democratization, which meant greater tolerance, acceptance of political pluralism and the effective participation of civil society in the political process.

Those who took part in the conference agreed that UNESCO's singular initiative in encouraging the culture of peace while respecting national identities, had come at just the right moment for their countries.

But it would not bear fruit, they warned, without the full participation and involvement of governments, scientific communities and the non-governmental sector.

The spirit of getting together promoted by UNESCO will enable governments and scientific bodies to present a wide range of contributions which will enrich future culture for peace programmes. But such input should also heed the solemn warning of former United Nations Secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar that *"real peace is impossible without the elimination of injustice, since injustice sets off violence and then feeds it"*.

UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor remarked in his opening address to the conference that *"there's only one train we should always miss - the war train. We can catch the peace train through our everyday behaviour."*

Though it might have been hard to define, the idea of a culture of peace captured the imagination of those at the San Salvador conference. Undoubtedly it is an idea that will preoccupy for a long time those intellectuals looking for ways to turn around the hearts and minds of people battered by war.

Carlos Mario MARQUEZ
San Salvador

●

A film on the life and work of MARIA ELENA VIERA DA SILVA was screened at UNESCO on February 25. Directed by French cinematographer, Daniel le Comte, "Le Film du Temps" presented the Portuguese artist through a series of interviews carried out in 1976, 1980 and 1988 in which she shows and explains her works and the directions she chose. Viera da Silva was linked to the "lyrical abstraction" movement that was born in the post Second World War period. She died in 1992 at the age of 84 years.

▼

The European Union (EU), under its MED-MEDIA programme, has approved $172,500 for a UNESCO-led project for the promotion of ***WOMEN IN THE MEDIA***. This "Network for the Development of Women Communication Human Resources in the Mediterranean Arab Countries" links university journalism departments and higher mass communication institutes in Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. The network will, notably, organize training programmes and workshops for women television, radio and press journalists, the first to be held next April in Rabat (Morocco) on the management of mass communication institutes, and in Irbid (Jordan) on Desktop Publishing techniques.

●

The first training seminar for UNESCO CLUBS IN THE CARIBBEAN was organized in Runaway Bay from February 16 to 19 by the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO. It was attended by about 40 participants, not only from Jamaica, but also from Grenada, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago who discussed the following themes: the Clubs, their role, organization and their links with UNESCO; culture and development; education for all; information; the International Year of the Family; and Science and Technology for the 21st Century.

"...BOILING FROM THE BOTTOM"

UNESCO Symposium on Science & Technology seeks explanations - and remedies - for Africa's poor economic performance.

A UNESCO Symposium on Science and Technology in Africa brought out deep-seated issues in the region's search for a better place on the world economic stage as the century draws to a close. Held at the UN regional centre in Nairobi (Kenya) on February 14 and 15, the meeting attracted about 200 delegates, including S&T ministers from several African states. But, although they agreed on 10 recommendations, some delegates still felt the political will was not yet there to carry them out.

UNESCO's Director-General, Federico Mayor, made his position clear as he opened the meeting: *"Africa is a priority in all UNESCO programmes"*. This, he said, is why he had decided to launch UNESCO's first *World Science Report* at the meeting. *"Development in Africa will, in the end, depend on the transfer of knowledge and on the concomitant development of expertise,"* he said. This is also why he had set aside $1 million to create an International Fund for the Technological Development of Africa. But, he said, *"Africa, above all, must evolve its own blueprint for development and must no longer depend on external models"*, he said.

With an estimated 70% or more of sub-Saharan Africa's spending on science and technology coming from foreign aid, the prospect of self-sufficiency reminded delegates that their governments have still not carried out pledges made in the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action to spend 1% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on S&T. The *World Science Report* shows that, 40 years after independence, the region as a whole still devotes only about 0.3% of GDP for R&D - five times less than the newly-industrialized countries (NICs) of South-East Asia and 10 times less than Japan.

The conference heard a few *"success stories"*. Starting from simple biotechnology techniques, such as biological nitrogen fixation to increase crop yield, some African scientists have developed state-of-the-art skills in genetic engineering for food production, pest control and disease diagnosis. According to Prof. Ole Moiyoi, the International Laboratory for Research into Animal Diseases in Nairobi has developed a test that can detect even the minutest presence of parasites in animals. Similarly, the African Network of Scientific and Technological Institutions (ANSTI) - 80 in 30 countries - is the world's biggest scientific regional network, providing a 'critical mass' of expertise by pooling resources.

But criticism seemed to outweigh pats on the back. The centres of excellence planned under ANSTI did not materialise, said Ben Ntim of UNESCO, because national governments did not pay their way. Even some ministers admitted there was a lack of political will. More than one speaker reminded delegates that the NICs

TECHNICIANS WEIGHING AND MEASURING FISH AT THE NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CENTRE IN NOSY-BÉ (MADAGASCAR) (Photo UNESCO/ Dominique Roger).

● A Workshop on **REMOTE SENSING (RS) APPLIED TO GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS MAPPING** was held at Headquarters on February 3, as part of the Programme on Geological Applications of Remote Sensing (GARS), launched 10 years ago by UNESCO and the International Union of Geological Sciences. Participants notably examined a project for landslide hazard mapping in the Andean Region, using RS and Geographical Information System (GIS) technology, and a volcanic-hazard oriented project in the Philippines.

▼ The Scientific Board of the ***INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CORRELATION PROGRAMME*** (IGCP) met at Headquarters from January 31 to February 4. Looking towards the future, the Board announced that the IGCP will increase emphasis on understanding the global environment; develop more effective ways to find and assess natural resources; increase knowledge of geological processes; and improve methods and techniques. Among 10 new projects approved were: the Precambrian in the North Atlantic Realm, the Lower Proterozoic of Sub-Equatorial Africa, Caribbean Volcanic Arcs and Ophiolites, etc.

● **NUTRIENT ANALYSIS IN TROPICAL MARINE WATERS**, is now available in the Manuals and Guides series (No. 28) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. It is based on a Nutrient Intercalibration Exercise in Zanzibar (Tanzania) last April as part of a training series sponsored by the IOC and the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation in Developing Countries (SAREC) under the regional programme for Co-operative Investigation of the North and Central Western Indian Ocean.

ex Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

UNESCO SOURCES

had seen their economies rocket by investing in S&T, while Africa was still on the sidelines. And unlike Africa, said Adrian Badran, Director-General of UNESCO's Science sector, the NICs had few natural resources except human. .

According to Prof. Edward Ayensu, President of the Panafrican Union for Science and Technology, governments do not make the best use of their trained scientists. *"Sometimes I think they hate scholarship"*, he said - a point of view shared by one delegate from Burundi who said that, after graduating in engineering, he was *"sent to teach in a low-level secondary school,"* instead of going on for a doctorate. At the other extreme, said Dr Osita Ogbur of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Nairobi, *"there are so few trained scientists that even a young doctoral graduate can become head of a department without any post-doctoral experience"*.

Layashi Yaker, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, felt that part of the problem was Africa's dependency on foreign aid. *"Some countries are repaying debt at 80% to 90% of their earnings. How can they develop? Ministries of External Assistance are now more important than those for Development"*. One solution, promoted by the African Foundation for Research and Development (AFRAND) - at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology near Nairobi - is to exchange debt for science, whereby creditors plough interest repayments into specific S&T projects.

INDIGENOUS STRENGTHS

The legacy of colonialism also came in for criticism - some felt that what works in industrialised countries might not be right for Africa, whether it be selective entry education or even the everyday machinery of democracy. But behind this was a feeling that Africa's indigenous strengths have been overlooked. At an informal meeting sparked by the UNESCO Symposium, Prof. Ole Moiyoi said *"Africa is not tapping its resources"*. The Masai tribe, he said, uses leaves as an effective insecticide. Unless African scientists take an interest, he warned, this kind of knowledge will be exploited by overseas pharmaceutical companies - with no economic returns for the culture it came from.

At the same meeting, Dr Eva Rathgeber, Director of IDRC, said that some attempts to introduce technology to rural villages had failed for cultural reasons. Water tanks were being used to store grain, she said, because rural women depended on the daily routine of collecting water to keep up with local news. On the other hand, women were being denied access to science education by cultural stereotypes. *"Science is not an option for girls in many single sex secondary schools"* she said.

POLITICAL ATTITUDES

The symbolic significance of UNESCO's decision to launch its first *World Science Report* in Africa was not lost on delegates. But, according to Layashi Yaker, there needs to be a change in political attitudes to S&T. *"The launching of the World Science Report has to have a meaning"*, he said. *"It is not just an event"*.

The next step, said Prof. Ayensu, is to create *"an enabling environment"*. Part of the International Fund for Technological Development, said Federico Mayor, will be used to train engineers and technicians in basic repair skills. At present, throughout Africa, equipment is often abandoned when it breaks down. *"We have to create a culture of maintenance"* says Mayor.

The UNESCO Chairs project, he hoped, would *"provide the rapid transfer of knowledge, by replacing scholarships with short-term professorships"*. For the cost of sending one student abroad, dozens could be trained at home by inviting a leading professor for a month or two. Long-term overseas fellowships, he felt, are also contributing to the brain drain, by encouraging fellows to settle with their families in the host country.

In his summing up, Adrian Badran said that *"the African success story is the story we are launching here"*. It may take time for African politicians to accept that science and technology, rather than aid, is the way forward. But, for Professor Paul Vermande, Director of the Ecole nationale supérieure polytechnique in Yaounde, Cameroon, by concentrating on immediate, practical programmes, Africa will find the truth of the Ibo proverb *"the stewpot starts boiling from the bottom"*.

Peter COLES, Nairobi

●

UNESCO'S CO-ACTION PROGRAMME raised almost two million dollars in donations in 1992-93 to support some 152 projects throughout the developing world. The donations came from schoolchildren, members of clubs, associations, groups and individuals, and helped finance a range of grass-roots projects.

(Photo UNESCO).

For example, children at rural schools on the banks of Lake Titicaca in Bolivia, like the one pictured above, previously had to sit on mud floors. A local NGO, Voluntarios en Accion, was ready to build desks and benches in its workshop: all it needed was the wood, which was provided by Co-Action.

▼

International river basins often suffer from unpermissible decrease, pollution and regime variation without consideration to interests of bordering countries or without taking into concern the recipient lakes and seas. ***TRANSBOUNDARY RIVER BASINS MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT***, a 272-page report on an International Symposium in Delft (the Netherlands) in May 1992, presents the problems and possible methods for applying an ecological approach to water resources utilization and management of these basins.

☞ *International Hydrological Programme*

A RAY OF SUNSHINE

The first school for refugee children built under UNESCO's "Operation Bosnia" is inaugurated.

A strong north wind has chased the last cloud from the skies of Grude, one of the biggest towns in a predominantly Croatian zone, ending more than two months of incessant rain. Freed from the greyness, a round yellow sun - just like the one children draw above a house with a door, two windows and always a red roof - makes a grand appearance.

It lights up a building which has not two but a good 30 windows and, of course, a red roof. On one of its walls posters read: "UNESCO Educational Centre/Primary School built thanks to the German RTL TV network and to the town of Grude".

We are in Dubrava, a village on a hillside overlooking Grude, where the French organisation *Médecins sans Frontières* is preparing to build 70 prefab houses for 160 refugee families from Mostar and central Bosnia. The school is the first of three for children of the three ethnic groups: Muslim, Croat and Serb, foreseen under UNESCO's *"Operation Bosnia"*.

EIGHT GRADES

After two years of compulsory *"holidays,"* the children will at last be able to sit on real school benches. In just a month, a Slovenian factory produced the prefabricated elements. Then the sections were assembled on the spot in a few weeks. School furniture was made by another local company - two sizes of chairs and desks, for children age 7 to 10 and 11 to 14. Covering 500 m² of floor space, the school was designed by UNESCO's Unit for Educational Architecture. For a total cost of about $200,000, it includes four classrooms, a library open to the community, a teachers' room, two storerooms, sanitary facilities and an entrance area which doubles as an indoor playground. With two shifts a day, the school can accommodate 240 children in a primary cycle of eight grades.

As they waited for guests to arrive on January 30, the day the school was inaugurated, the noisy, laughing children played with *"The Wings of Dubrava,"* a sculpture by young French artists Laurent and Bobby. The village elders, like Ljubo, whose only son was killed in the battle of Mostar, were there too, saying nothing, perhaps no longer capable of celebration amid a terrible war.

DUBRAVA CHILDREN AT THEIR NEW SCHOOL (Photo UNESCO/R. Almeida).

The guests came in a bus donated to the school by the German benefactress, Ute Ohoven, a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador. Among them were Vinko Zoric, the mayor of Grude, Jozo Maric, the former mayor, Markus Schoeneberger of RTL, Traugott Schoefthaler, Secretary-General of the German Commission for UNESCO, and representatives of the UNHCR, UNPROFOR, and UNICEF which cooperated closely on the project.

Three of the guests made short speeches, mainly to express the hope that peace and happiness would win over war and suffering. A high point of the inauguration was an announcement by the authorities of Grude that they would help build a second UNESCO school for refugee children, the majority Bosnian Serb, in Nevesinje, by providing cement and reinforcement steel for its foundations.

This school should be up in a few months, along with a third, mainly Muslim, in Kalesije. *"I hope you'll join us to open that school too,"* said Traugott Schoefthaler to Jozo Maric who is also a leading member of the Croat community.

"With pleasure," he said, adding however, *"if possible..."*

Leon DAVICO
Grude

● **VANUATU** became a member of UNESCO on February 10 by signing the Organization's Constitution. Adhesion of the South Pacific archipelago brings the number of UNESCO Member States to 182.

▼ Announced within days of Chili's return to democracy in March 1990, Chili's 900 Schools Programme, presented in a richly-illustrated booklet, ***ALL CHILDREN CAN LEARN***, just published by UNESCO, aims at improving the quality of education in the country's most impoverished schools. Accordingly, it tackles learning on several fronts: improving school buildings, providing classroom materials and regular teacher-training, but also by encouraging personal initiative, and the active participation of pupils, teachers, directors, families and the community.

The key to the programme's method is consideration of the children's world as the basis of all further learning. To date, over 235,000 children in 1,456 schools have benefited from the programme. Written by Cynthia Guttman, the new 31-page booklet is the first in a series, entitled "Education for All: Making it Work" on promising innovations in basic education.

MEMORY AT RISK

The historical archives of St Petersburg "could be destroyed at any moment".

Russia is in great need of historical research in its quest for self-discovery to enable it to reflect on its future course. After seven decades during which freedom was stifled, it is far more than a mere re-examination that is needed. Its past has to be opened up, on the basis of authentic sources.

The crucial period is the *"extended"* nineteenth century that saw Russia's entry into the modern age. The historical archives of St Petersburg, which was the capital of the tsars, constitute, in fact, the organized but hitherto scarcely used *"memory"* of the Empire during the 130 years stretching from Catherine II to Nicholas II.

But now this memory is in danger. UNESCO, responding to an appeal by Russia, has asked the International Council on Archives, a non-governmental organization, for a report on the subject. Wolf Buchmann, of the Federal Archives of Germany, went to St Petersburg to make an initial assessment in April 1993. The archives are kept in three adjacent buildings in the historic centre, the Senate and Synod Palaces and Laval House, a centre of intellectual activity in the nineteenth century.

The twin palaces were built in 1834 by the Naples-born architect Carlo Rossi, one of the great names associated with the architecture of St Petersburg. His designs and plans, and those of many other architects, are to be found in the archives.

With their 65,000 linear metres of storage space, they contain all the collections of the central institutions from the end of the eighteenth century until 1917, with the exception of those of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and the Navy. They also house the archives of the synod of the Orthodox Church, numerous private collections and the libraries of several institutions, totalling some 350,000 volumes.

EVACUATION IMPOSSIBLE

The facilities are, however, antiquated and altogether unsuitable. The congestion is such that evacuation would be quite impossible in the event of an accident.

The floors built to carry a weight of 500 kg per square meter, have subsided in places under a weight of 1000 to 1500 kg per square metre. In the event of a fire, the weight of the water would undoubtedly cause the building to collapse.

The fire hazard is, in fact, very real. The wooden shelving, put up over 70 years ago, is tinder-dry and has never received any fire proofing treatment, and the wiring is in danger of causing short circuits. There are no fire walls or emergency exits.

Mr. Buchmann's conclusion is that the St Petersburg archives could be destroyed at any moment.

Already, thanks to financial assistance from Switzerland, Detlef Schöning and Udo Häring, architectural engineers from Rheinland-Pfalz (Germany) went to St Petersburg and prepared a draft plan for the renovation of the buildings.

Another project has been drawn up by the Russian research institute for the restoration of monuments (Rosrestavratsia). But since this is a unique group of buildings of universal value, it would be to the honour of the international community if it were to provide the financial and technical support that Russia cannot do without in the present circumstances.

Charles KECSKEMETI
Secretary-General of the International Council on Archives

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An exhibition of TRADITIONAL RUSSIAN ART was on view at Headquarters from February 15 to 25. On display were 800 objects from the collection of film director Anatoly Panine, who, for over 30 years, has devoted himself to a revival of traditional arts throughout Russia: costumes, lace,

CERAMIC STATUE BY JULIANA KOYKINA (Photo Augustinermuseum).

embroidery, lacquered wood, basketry, ceramics, iron work, and toys. During the exhibition, a number of Russian artists demonstrated the various stages of lacquering wood, and Alexis Panine, the collectors's son, organized a workshop to initiate children into the different techniques of this traditional craft.

UNESCO SOURCES is a monthly magazine published by the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*. English and French editions are produced at Paris Headquarters; the Spanish and Catalan editions in cooperation with the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia, Mallorca 285, 08037 Barcelona, Spain; the Chinese edition in cooperation with the Xinhua News Agency, 57 Xuanwumen Xidajie, Beijing, China; the Portuguese edition in cooperation with the Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO, Avenida Infante Santo, No. 42-5°, 1300 Lisbon, Portugal.

Editor-in-Chief: R. Lefort. **Associate editors**: B. Werther, S. Williams, N. Michaux. **Assistant Managing Editor**: C. Mouillère. **Spanish edition**: E. Kouamou (Barcelona), L. Sampedro (Paris). **Lay-out**: G. Traiano, F. Ryan. **Circulation and Secretariat**: D. Maurek.

Photoengraving and printing in UNESCO Workshops. **Distribution** by UNESCO's specialized services.

LOOKING AHEAD

An exhibition of engravings by 18 **ARTISTS FROM BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA** will be on view at Headquarters from April 11 to 22. The first planning session of the IOC/WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for the **GLOBAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM** will take place from April 18 to 21 in Melbourne (Australia). The 8th Session of the IOC Committee for the **GLOBAL INVESTIGATION OF POLLUTION IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT** will be held in San José (Costa Rica) from April 18 to 22. UNESCO's **EXECUTIVE BOARD** will hold its 144th session at Headquarters from April 15 to May 4. The first Global Conference on the sustainable development of **SMALL ISLAND STATES** will take place in Barbados from April 25 to May 6. In the framework of UNESCO's Chernobyl programme, a **CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL FORUM**, organized by the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce of Chambéry (France) on April 25 and 26, will be attended by some of the children concerned along with medical, legal and financial experts, to evaluate activities organized in their favour by French and other European associations. The **"ARTISTS ACROSS FRONTIERS"** programme of UNESCO's International Fund for the Promotion of Culture (IFPC) and American actress Marisa Berenson will stage a Gala Performance of the French production of "The Children of Silence", to benefit disabled actors, at Headquarters on April 29. A Seminar to Promote **INDEPENDENT, PLURALISTIC MEDIA IN LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN**, in Santiago (Chili) from May 2 to 6, will, notably, address the media needs of women, cultural diversity and the viability of pluralistic media in rural and marginalized areas. The 8th Meeting of the Executive Committee for the International Campaign for Establishment of the **NUBIA MUSEUM IN ASWAN** and the **NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION** in Cairo, will be held in Aswan on May 9 and 10.

OUR NEXT ISSUE will focus on UNESCO activities in the area of **PREVENTIVE EDUCATION**: learning to avoid AIDS, and drug addiction, how to prevent degradation of the environment, and reduce the risks of natural disasters, etc.

SOURCES